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The subject catalogue of the entire library was completed and arranged early in the year. It has, of course, been since kept up to date, the accessions being carded and arranged immediately on their presentation.

But few volumes have been bound, all the resources of the Library Committee being required for the purchase of books actually needed by the working members of the Academy and for the continuance of subscriptions to serials and periodicals.

Among the more noteworthy additions recorded is a fine set of Edwards' Botanical Register, a much needed journal, procured by special subscriptions received from Messrs. John T. Morris, Stuart Wood, Alex. Biddle, Charles W. Trotter, Charles Schaeffer and Miss Serena Potts, through Mr. Thomas Meehan.

The "Hortus Siccus Gramineus" of Wm. Curtis, published in London in 1802, was presented in two well-preserved volumes by Dr. Charles R. King and being illustrated, not by figures but by the plants themselves, was transferred to the herbarium.

We are indebted to Mr. Edw. C. Pickering for a fine crayon portrait of the late Dr. Charles Pickering, whose early work in connection with the Academy well merits such commemoration.

Another interesting addition to the society's collection of portraits is a fine oil painting of Alex. Lawson, the engraver, who, although never a member of the Academy, was intimately associated with the founders and should be held in grateful remembrance in consequence of the fine plates prepared by him in illustration of Binney's Mollusks and Wilson's Birds. The picture was presented by his daughter, Mrs. Mary Lawson Birkhead.

A pair of globes bequeathed to the Academy by Mrs. Cecilia Barron Fest have also been received and appropriately placed in the library.

It gives me pleasure to acknowledge the efficient assistance rendered in the current work of the year by Mr. William J. Fox.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

EDW. J. NOLAN,

*Librarian.*

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#### REPORT OF THE CURATORS.

The Curators present the following statement of the Curator-in-Charge as their report for the year 1891 :—

The Curator-in-Charge respectfully reports that the collections of the Academy are in much the same condition as they were at the time of the preparation of the last annual report; this condition is, in the main, satisfactory so far as the actual state of preservation of the specimens is concerned, but the limitation of space in the Museum no longer permits of that attention being given to proper display and classification which are so desirable, either from the point of view of the mere visitor or of that of the scientist. Attention has been repeatedly called in these reports to this deficiency, but for the time it has seemed impossible to rectify the defect. The surprisingly rapid growth of the collections, giving evidence of continued and increased interest in the workings of the Academy, has of itself been the chief obstacle to systematization, crowding as it does, all space available in the institution. Relief seems near at hand, however. The generous response of the State to the Academy's application for aid, as manifested in two enactments of the Legislature (sessions of 1888-1889 and 1890-1891) each appropriating \$50,000 toward the construction of an addition to the present building, has made it possible for the Academy to practically enter upon a scheme of enlargement, and the close of the present year sees completed the "connecting museum" which is to unite the existing building on Logan Square with the main edifice fronting on 19th street, the early erection of which is anxiously looked forward to. This main structure, the completion of which will mark an epoch in the history of the Academy, will cover a surface area of approximately 23,000 square feet, and nearly treble the available space which the institution now has. The total cost of this structure is estimated, from plans already drawn and approved, at about \$200,000, toward which the Academy has now in actual funds and subscriptions, conditional and otherwise, upwards of \$80,000 (including the last State appropriation of \$50,000.) The generous interest of the citizens of Philadelphia, who have always regarded with pride the foremost institution of the kind in this country, encourages the hope that sufficient will be added to this amount during the coming winter to permit the Academy, through the Board of Trustees of the Building Fund, to contract for the construction of the walls and roof immediately on the opening of the building season. This is earnestly to be desired, and it is hoped that no effort will be spared to attain this end. It should be noted that the foundations for the entire edifice have already been laid.

The connecting building which has just been completed contains the new lecture theatre, with a capacity of 500, and a museum hall, well adapted to an exposition of synoptic natural history. For the present, and until further accommodation is afforded, it will be used to display a "State collection"—a collection illustrative, so far as it is possible in the restricted space which is offered, of the natural resources, principally geological and mining, of the State of Pennsylvania.

The acquisition of a hall designed specially for the delivery of lectures is of importance to the Academy, as it permits of that attention being given to one department of the workings of the institution which its limited accommodation has thus far rendered all but impossible. Heretofore all the lectures prepared under the auspices of the Academy have been delivered in the Library Hall or in one of the east rooms prepared specially for class purposes. The various uses to which it has been found necessary to put the latter room, has ultimately thrown all the lectures into the Library Hall, much to the discomfort, at times, of the special workers and students in the Library, and always to the disadvantage, through lack of adaptability, of the lecturer and his audience. The large attendance at some of these lectures—and equally so at some of the regular stated meetings of the Academy when communications of special interest have been announced—has demonstrated the deficiency of seating capacity, and members as well as visitors have sometimes been obliged to forego the proceedings for want of room. This disadvantage the new lecture hall will rectify. Constructed in the form of a theatre, with raised platforms and gallery, it is well adapted to the wants of an average audience.

The additions to the Academy's collection made during the year are of unusual importance, and it is gratifying to be able to report that they cover about equally all departments. The renewed activity which has manifested itself in certain departments which have, for some time back, been in a condition more or less stationary augurs well for a period of prosperity, and it is not too much to hope that this period will be one of the most promising in the history of the institution. Special attention is in this connection called to the report of the Conservator of the Ornithological Section, Mr. Witmer Stone. From this it appears that the Academy has added to its already vast collection of birds upwards of 1200 specimens, many of them now for the first time represented in

the museum. The thanks of the Academy are specially due to Mr. Samuel N. Rhoads, who has generously given upwards of 900 birds, representing the avi-fauna of the southern United States from Florida to California. To the members of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, an organization of energetic students recently founded for the prosecution of ornithological studies, the Academy is also under obligations for the gift of a superb collection of nests of Pennsylvania birds, numbering 60 pieces; these nests are taken with their accessories, and thus illustrate a full scheme of avian architecture.

With the sanction of the Academy the Ornithological Section has issued circulars asking for the establishment of a permanent endowment fund for the more efficient management of its department; the substantial response which this effort has already met with encourages the belief that before long the full subscription asked for—\$25,000—will be received.

In the department of conchology, which continues to be the most fully represented of any in the Academy, and which still takes rank as the first of its kind in the world, the work of classification and rearrangement progresses with the usual vigor, thanks to the labors of the Conservator, Mr. H. A. Pilsbry, and of his co-workers, members of the Conchological Section and of the American Association of Conchologists. The specimens added during the year are comprised in 1710 trays, so that the total collection of shells, now exhibited, numbers 62,700 trays. The work of the American Association of Conchologists in bringing together a complete and select collection of the mollusca, recent and fossil, of the United States, is being rapidly pushed forward, and there are already represented in the new series 334 genera and 751 species, contained in 921 trays. The following statement from the President of the Association, Mr. John H. Campbell, outlines the work of the organization: "The formation of the collection has met with the most enthusiastic support of the members. Freely contributing specimens, they take a pride in sending only such shells as will do credit to the Association, and it is their confident expectation that before many years the collection will be the finest special exhibit of natural history specimens in America, if not in the world. It already contains several types of new species, many fine examples of species of which the Academy's general collection contained only poor or inferior specimens, and by the addition of the fossil to the living species, it introduces a

new feature into American museums. The life history of the American mollusca may be traced from the earliest known forms to the living species, as the collection approaches more and more toward completion." The donations to this collection are from 52 collectors, whose names appear in the list of additions to the museum.

The departments of entomology and botany continue to profit by the valuable services of their special Conservators, Dr. Henry Skinner and Mr. John H. Redfield, who, as in past years, contribute their work gratuitously, for the benefit of the Academy. To these gentlemen a debt of gratitude is due for the great amount of time which they give to the care of the special collections under their charge, and for their efforts to obtain new material for them. In this connection also the Curator-in-Charge would refer to the services of Mr. Thomas Meehan, who for years past has assiduously labored toward increasing the Academy's herbarium and supplying the rare botanical works needed for the study of the plants, himself contributing extensively from his own private purse. The appended list of donations to the herbarium indicates the satisfactory condition of the department of botany.

The additions to the collection of minerals have been somewhat less important than during past years, partly due to the fact that the collections have been steadily nearing completion, thereby rendering it more difficult to procure desiderata, and also to the protracted illness of the Conservator of the Wm. S. Vaux collection, Mr. Jacob Binder, which has prevented that attention being given to the collection which it would otherwise have received. The regular Academy collection of minerals continues to receive attention from Mr. W. W. Jefferis, the Conservator of the Mineralogical Section, and from others associated with that Section.

The accessions in the departments of geology and paleontology are referred to in the report of the Professor of Invertebrate Paleontology. It may not be amiss, however, to refer in this place to the acquisition by the Academy's West Greenland Expedition, among other geological material, of a large mass weighing 260 pounds, and of four smaller masses of the famous Ovifak iron, tellurite or meteorite, the nature of which has given rise to so much discussion among chemists and geologists. The largest mass, while very considerably smaller than either of the three blocks which were secured by the Swedish Government in 1871, exceeds in weight by some fifteen pounds, the Nordenskjöld specimen deposited in the

British Museum. No analysis of the Academy's stone has as yet been made, although numerous requests for permission to make such examination have been received. A more detailed, although as yet only preliminary, sketch of the operations of the West Greenland Expedition has been submitted to the Council, and is appended as a special report.

In departments of the Academy other than those that have been specified, the work of arranging and cataloguing has been steadily, though not rapidly, progressing; this work, under the direction of the Curator-in-Charge, has been in the main carried out by his assistant, Mr. J. E. Ives, to whose efforts, also, and to the liberality of Mr. F. Stearns of Detroit, the Academy is indebted for most valuable additions representing the invertebrate (echinoderm and crustacean) faunas of the Japanese and West Indian Seas. Much new material has also been brought from the latter region by Mr. William J. Fox, who, in the interests of the Academy, spent a month in the early part of the year on the island of Jamaica.

Attention has been called in the last report of the Curator-in-Charge to the deficiencies in the Academy's collection of recent mammalia, which is still, if we except the cabinet of archæology, the weakest department of the museum. Thanks however, to the liberality of the Philadelphia Zoological Society, through the Superintendent of the Gardens, Mr. Arthur Erwin Brown, new material is being constantly obtained, much of it of a kind which it would be difficult to duplicate. The osteological collection, which is already the most extensive in the country, is thus being rapidly increased, and it is hoped that before long it will be sufficiently complete to permit of its being separated into a "type" series, similar to the famous Hunterian Collection of the Royal College of Surgeons in London. Apart from the donations which have been received from the Zoological Society, the department of mammalogy has been enriched by a series of skulls of the larger African quadrupeds, from the region of Mount Kilima 'Njaro, the gift of Dr. W. L. Abbott, a member of the Academy, who is at present exploring the northern wilds of India. Among these skulls are a number of rare types of antelopes. The most important accession of the year to the department of mammalogy, is the complete skeleton of Sibbald's whale (*Balænoptera Sibbaldii*), obtained from a carcass, 68 feet in length, stranded on the New Jersey Coast on October first. To the good will of the Mayor and Town Council

of Ocean City, assisted by the generosity of Dr. Samuel G. Dixon, the Academy is indebted for this very rare and valuable specimen, the only one of the kind in this country, and one of four specimens contained in the museums of the world. This is the first recorded occurrence of the species in American waters. The specimen in question has been made the subject of study by Prof. Cope, who has contributed a paper on its structure and peculiarities to the Academy's "Proceedings."

The general routine work of the Curator's department has been conducted as in previous years, no broad departure of plan or method having been considered necessary. The entire collection of alcoholics has been examined, and it is a pleasure to be able to state that less than a half-dozen removals have been found necessary.

It is well to call attention to the defective condition of the roof of the museum, which allows of the accumulation of moisture in the walls, and a penetration of the same into some of the wall-cases, thus rotting the labels and otherwise disfiguring the specimens. It has, indeed, been found necessary to empty a few of these cases, and the contents of others would be removed were there space for their arrangement elsewhere. Repeated attempts have been made to repair the defects of the roof, but the form of construction renders it difficult to do so effectively. The increasing leakages, combined with the heavy cost of the repairs, make it probable that a new roof will have to be provided before many years.

Specimens for study have been loaned during the year to Dr. G. Baur, of the Clark University, Worcester, Mass.; to Mr. Chapman, of New York; to Dr. G. Brown Goode, of Washington; and to Profs. W. B. Scott and H. F. Osborn, of Princeton. The Curator-in-Charge reports the loss of two specimens of the chelonian *Cinosternum Pennsylvanicum*.

The Board of Curators as it was constituted at the time of the preparation of the last annual report, had been in existence since the latter part of 1883, a period of seven years. The removal of one of its members, the President of the Academy, Dr. Joseph Leidy, who occupied the position of Curator for a continuous term of forty-four years, and whose death took place on the 30th of April last, left a vacancy in the Board, which was filled by the election (June 2d) of Dr. Henry C. Chapman. It is needless to comment upon the loss to the Academy which the death of its late President and Chairman of the Board of Curators entails; it is sufficient to



say that no one had been for a longer period of time actively identified with its interests, and no one has added greater lustre to the galaxy of names with which the history of the institution is illumined.

Respectfully submitted,

ANGELO HEILPRIN,

*Curator-in-Charge.*

REPORT ON THE OPERATIONS OF THE WEST GREENLAND EXPEDITION.

As leader of the auxiliary party which accompanied the Academy's North Greenland Expedition to the Arctic Regions, I respectfully submit the following preliminary report of operations:

The combined Expedition, under direction of Civil Engineer Robert E. Peary, left Brooklyn, N. Y., on the steam-whaler "Kite" June 6th, arriving at Sidney, Cape Breton, on the 11th of the same month. After shipping 183 tons of coal, in addition to a remaining 144 tons, the "Kite" headed for the coast of Greenland *via* the Strait of Belle Isle, entering the early ice of the Strait, off Greenly Island, on the 15th. On the 19th the ship left the "pack," and sighted the coast of Greenland, somewhat southwest of Cape Desolation, on the night of the 23d. Godhavn or Disco was made on the 27th, and Upernivik on July 1st. No pack ice of any consequence was met with until a position about opposite the Devil's Thumb (Lat.  $74^{\circ} 40'$ ) was reached, late in the afternoon of July 2d. From this day until the 23d, when we had attained a point somewhat westward of Cape York, the Expedition was virtually powerless in the grip of the Melville Bay ice, and it was only by dint of hard effort that it succeeded in making the North Water. It was during one of the many attempts to force a passage through the ice that an unfortunate accident, the breaking of the right leg, befell Mr. Peary (July 11th). The accident was not considered at the time of such a nature as to materially interfere with the prospects of the Expedition. The entrance to Inglefield Gulf, where Mr. Peary had anticipated establishing his winter quarters, was reached on July 24th, but the presence of a continuous ice-sheet prevented entry, and after due consideration a site was selected on the south side of McCormick Bay, just north of Murchison Sound, in approximate Lat.  $77^{\circ} 43' N.$  This Bay communicates with the North Water, and is considered one of the most

advantageous sites for wintering on the north coast. It is in the midst of a region where game in one form or another is abundant.

After the virtual completion of Mr. Peary's winter house, the party immediately under my charge, consisting of Dr. Benjamin Sharp, Zoologist-in-Charge, Dr. W. H. Burk, botanist, Dr. W. E. Hughes, ornithologist, Dr. J. F. Holt, zoologist, Mr. L. M. Mengel, entomologist, Dr. R. N. Keely, surgeon, Mr. Frazer Ashhurst and Mr. Alex. Kenealy, turned southward, firing the final salute at 5.30 A. M. of the 30th.

On the southern journey much delay was occasioned by fogs and storms, which interfered largely with the operations of the Expedition. Little ice, beyond freely floating or grounded icebergs, was met with in the traverse of Melville Bay. Cape York was left at midnight of Aug. 3d, and Wilcox's Head, south of the Devil's Thumb, sighted about noon of the 5th. That which occupied us three weeks on the northern journey was thus accomplished in about thirty-six hours on the return. The passage of the Waigat, north of Disco Island, was made on the 8th and 9th of August, and Godhavn reached early on the 10th. On August 23d the last day of the contract with the agents of the "Kite," the vessel steamed into St. Johns, Newfoundland. A margin of but a few tons of coal was left on arrival.

The stopping places of the Expedition in Greenland were: Godhavn, Ovifak (southern shore of the island of Disco), Moder Bay (east shore of the same island), Kudlisaet (north shore, on the Waigat), the Swarte Huk (opposite Skalo Island), Upernavik, the Duck Islands, Cape York (a few miles to the east of the actual cape), Saunders Island, Netlik (the Eskimo settlement on Barden Bay), Herbert Island, and the two shores of McCormick Bay. Collections were made at all of these points.

It is as yet impossible to estimate the scientific results of the Expedition, but a cursory examination of the collections that have been brought back encourages the belief that considerable material that is new to science has been obtained, while the bulk of the collections is new to the Academy's museum. Briefly summarized the collections are approximately as follows:

*Department of Ethnology*.—1 Eskimo skeleton, 22 Eskimo crania, 2 Eskimo kayaks (one from the region of Cape York,) 2 Eskimo sledges, and a variety of implements, utensils, etc., mainly from the tribe of the Arctic Highlanders.

*Vertebrate Zoology*.—2 young (white) seals—stuffed, 2 Skulls of seals, 1 Polar bear skull, 2 Walrus skulls, 1 Reindeer skull, 1 Blue-fox skull, 154 specimens of birds, and a collection of eggs.

*Marine Zoology*.—Specimens obtained in dredgings and otherwise—not yet classified.

*Entomology*.—444 specimens, exclusive of those collected at Cape Breton, distributed as follows: Hymenoptera 25, Coleoptera 4, Diurnal Lepidoptera 106, Moths 143, Diptera 166.

A number of these, as reported by the Conservator of the Entomological Section, are new to science.

*Botany*.—A nearly complete collection of all the flowering plants, mosses and lichens found in the region.

*Geology*.—A full suite of rock specimens from all points touched by the Expedition. Noteworthy among these is one of the large iron-stones (meteorite or tellurite) from the famous region of Ovifak, weighing approximately 260 pounds. While a pygmy in comparison with the giant stones which were secured at the same spot by the Swedish Government in 1871, it is yet considerably larger than the well-known Nordenskjöld specimen in the British Museum. The interest, which from their peculiar construction, attaches to these stones, no less than their exceeding rarity in collections, makes the specimen an exceedingly valuable one to the Academy's museum. The Expedition was further successful in finding a number of other fragments and blocks together aggregating several pounds in weight.

It should be noted that no case of serious illness occurred on the Expedition.

Respectfully submitted,

ANGELO HEILPRIN,

*Leader of the West Greenland Expedition A. N. S.*

## REPORT OF THE BIOLOGICAL AND MICROSCOPICAL SECTION.

During the year 1891 this Section has held eighteen meetings.

Three new members have been admitted: Miss Mary Schively, Mr. Amos. P. Brown and Mrs. Elizabeth S. Bladen.

The following officers have been elected to serve for the ensuing year:

<i>Director</i> ,	.	.	.	.	.	Dr. Benjamin Sharp.
<i>Vice-Director</i> ,	.	.	.	.	.	John C. Wilson.